This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the presence or absence of pancreatic cancer in a patient comprising

(i) obtaining a biological sample from a patient;

(ii) detecting in the sample ~~an amount of~~ mRNA ~~nucleic acid~~ encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~UKW or an amount of polypeptide UKW~~; and

(iii) comparing the amount of mRNA detected ~~nucleic acid or polypeptide~~ with a predetermined standard value indicating the decision line for tumor-induced or non-tumor-induced UKW expression or presence in the cell and therefrom determining the presence or absence of pancreatic cancer in the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for determining whether or not a test sample of tissue or fluid of a patient contains pancreatic tumor cells or fluid ~~is derived~~ from pancreatic tumor cells, wherein the test sample and a second sample originating from non-pancreatic-tumor cells from the same individual or a different individual of the same species are used, which process comprises the following steps:

(a) incubating nucleic acids contained in each respective sample under stringent hybridization conditions with a nucleic acid probe which is selected from the group consisting of:

(i) a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, or a fragment thereof, said fragment comprising 50 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO: 1;

(ii) a nucleic acid sequence which is complementary to any nucleic acid sequence of (i);

(iii) a nucleic acid sequence which is capable of hybridizing ~~hybridizes~~ under stringent hybridization conditions with the sequence of (i); and

(iv) a nucleic acid sequence which is capable of hybridizing ~~hybridizes~~ under stringent hybridization conditions with the sequence of (ii) and

(b) determining the approximate amount of hybridization of nucleic acids present in each respective sample with said probe, and

(c) comparing the approximate amount of hybridization present in said ~~of the~~ test sample to an approximate amount of hybridization present in ~~of~~ said second sample to identify whether or not the test sample contains a greater level of hybridization ~~amount of the specific nucleic acid or mixture of nucleic acids~~ than does said second sample and therefrom determining whether the test sample contains pancreatic tumor cells or fluid from pancreatic tumor cells;

said stringent hybridization conditions being conditions involving washing said nucleic acids with a solution of 5x SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mmol/1 EDTA, pH 8.0, then hybridizing said nucleic acids at 50 to 60°C in 5x SSC overnight, then washing said nucleic acids at room temperature for 40 minutes with 2x SSC containing 0.1% SDS and afterwards washing said nucleic acids with 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 40 minutes with one change of fresh solution.

3. (Currently Amended) A method for the detection of pancreatic tumor, comprising

a) incubating a sample of a patient suspected of suffering from pancreatic cancer, selected from the group consisting of body fluid, ~~of~~ cells, or ~~of~~ a cell extract ~~or cell culture supernatants of said cells~~, whereby said sample contains mRNA ~~nucleic acids,~~ with a nucleic acid probe which is selected from the group consisting of

(i) the nucleic acid shown in SEQ ID NO:1 or a nucleic acid which is complementary to said sequence, and

(ii) nucleic acids which ~~hybridize~~ are capable of hybridizing with one of the nucleic acids from (i); ~~and~~

b) detecting hybridization~~, preferably by means of a further binding partner of the nucleic acid of the sample and/or the nucleic acid probe or by X-ray radiography~~; and

c) comparing the approximate amount of hybridization of the test sample to the level of mRNA of a housekeeping gene and therefrom determining whether pancreatic tumor is present in said sample;

said stringent hybridization conditions being conditions involving washing said nucleic acids with a solution of 5x SSC, 0.5% SDS, 1.0 mmol/1 EDTA, pH 8.0, then hybridizing said nucleic acids at 50 to 60°C in 5x SSC overnight, then washing said nucleic acids at room temperature for 40 minutes with 2x SSC containing 0.1% SDS and afterwards washing said nucleic acids with 0.1x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 50°C for 40 minutes with one change of fresh solution.

4. (Withdrawn) A screening method for identifying a compound which inhibits the biological activity of the UKW polypeptide comprising:

contacting said polypeptide with a compound or a plurality of compounds under conditions which allow interaction of said compound with said polypeptide; and

detecting the interaction between said compound or plurality of compounds with said polypeptide.

5. (Withdrawn) A screening method for identifying a compound which either inhibits the biological activity of the UKW polypeptide or inhibits the transcription or translation of the UKW gene, comprising:

contacting said compound or plurality of said compounds with a host cell in which invasiveness is mediated by expression of UKW; and

detecting the interaction between said compound or plurality of compounds with said host cell.

6. (Withdrawn) The screening method according to claim 5, wherein the detection of the interaction between said compound or plurality of compounds with said

host cell is measured by at least one of a change in cell physiology, a change in the differentiation state, and a change in cell metabolism leading to an increase of proliferation.

7. (Withdrawn) A screening method for identifying a compound which is an an antagonist of a UKW polypeptide comprising:

contacting said UKW polypeptide with a compound under conditions which allow interaction of said compound with said polypeptide;

determining a first level of activity of said polypeptide;

determining a second level of activity of said polypeptide expressed in a host which has not been contacted with said compound; and

quantitatively relating the first level of activity with the second level of activity, wherein when said first level of activity is less than said second level of activity, said compound is identified as an antagonist of said polypeptide.

8. (Withdrawn) An antibody against the UKW polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, or antigen-binding fragments thereof.

9. (Withdrawn) A composition for inhibiting the proliferation and/or invasive potential of pancreatic tumor cells comprising the antibody of claim 8.

10. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition for inhibiting the proliferation and/or invasive potential of pancreatic tumor cells comprising:

an antibody that binds to the polypeptide UKW of the sequence SEQ ID NO:2, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for inhibiting the proliferation and/or invasive potential of pancreatic tumor cells comprising administering, to a patient in need thereof,

a therapeutically effective amount of an antibody that binds to the polypeptide UKW of the sequence SEQ ID NO:2, or an antigen-binding fragment thereof.

12. (Withdrawn) A kit for for the diagnosis of a pancreatic tumor comprising the antibody of claim 8.